(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) The Indian Jute Mills Association had proposed the creation of corpus fund for jute industry in its presentaion to the Expert Committee on Textile Policy.

(b) The proposal of the Indian Jute Mills Association has been considered by the Expert group. The recommendations of the Expert Group are under consideration.

Relief *to* Textile Exporters

1516. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka are superseding India in Textile exports and have taken away Indian textile export business;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of these developments; and

(c) whether Government propose to offer some relief measures to textile exporters so that the country regains lost textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both these countries have a rapid growth in exports, especially in garments. In order to encourage the export of Indian textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, technological upgradation of the textile industry, favourable export oriented changes in Quota Policy, etc.